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ABSTRACT

This illustrated booklet for delegates provides a very brief overview of the White House Conference on Families (WHCF). Contents include a welcoming statement by the conference chairperson, a review of preconference activities leading up to the conference, and lists of conference goals and themes. Officers of the conference as well as WHCF staff and state coordinators are identified. A calendar of major events, aspects of participation by private and public organizations, and WHCF National Research Forum activities are included. (Author/RH)

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White House Conference on FAMILIES

Listening to America's Families

Baltimore/Minneapolis/Los Angeles

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June-July 1980

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President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter with their family.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1980

I wish to congratulate you on your selection as delegates to the White House Conference on Families. Your participation will enrich and strengthen this unique process of listening to American families. This conference is a long overdue examination of how our major institutions help, hurt or ignore families.

You carry with you the hopes and concerns of thousands of Americans who believe families have been overlooked for too long. Working together, I am confident we can build upon the strengths of our families, recognize their diverse needs and take real action to develop more responsive and sensitive policies toward them.

I look forward with great anticipation to the results of this Conference, and I thank you for your special help in this critical and challenging task.

Jimmy Carter

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FEB 2 3 1981

The Honorable Patricia Roberts Harris, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, lead agency for the White House Conference on Families.

A message from Jim Guy Tucker

Chairperson, White House Conference on Families

No previous White House Conference has been convened to deal with problems that are as compelling and as profound as those facing this White House Conference on Families.

Families have always been this nation's fundamental institution and source of strength. They are certainly our most precious asset, because within "ordinary" American families an extraordinary thing takes place: our nation's future is shaped and formed. Our families have done that job exceedingly well, often under trying circumstances.

But at no time in our history have families been under more pressure than they are today. Pounded by successive waves of deep and often unpredictable change, they have had to meet their day-to-day needs while struggling with government, with other institutions, and frequently with each other as well. Too often, government, whether in the Nation's Capital or in a small town's city hall, has compounded the problem by creating public policies and programs—in taxation, education, social welfare, and so on—that work to a family's disadvantage.

Some have said that this Conference will be an invitation for further Government control of family life. I believe just the opposite. Government steps in when families cannot help themselves; the overriding goal of the White House Conference on Families is to ensure that every family is strong enough to stand alone. To me, stronger families mean less government, not more.

But we cannot turn our backs on families in need. It remains the responsibility of government to help when all other means have failed.

In calling the White House Conference on Families, President Carter directed that every effort be made to reach out to all Americans so that we could listen to them—and learn from them. This, I believe, we have done successfully. But I want to remind you that our gathering together here does not mark the end of an effort but the beginning of an even larger and more challenging undertaking—the responsibility of translating this Conference's recommendations into reality.

Along with my fellow members of the National Advisory Committee and the WHCF staff, I look forward to sharing that responsibility with you.

Scenes from the national hearings where 4,000 people participated, with more than 2,000 actually testifying.

America's Families Speak out

Concerned by what he perceived as the lack of national policy to strengthen families, President Carter convened this White House Conference on Families to "examine the strengths of American families, the difficulties they face, and the ways in which family life is affected by public policies." He directed that the Conference "reach out, not only to scholars and to experts, but to many thousands of Americans around the country who know from their own experience what makes a family strong."

Because of this, the White House Conference on Families is different from any White House Conference of the past. It is taking place not in Washington, D.C., but in Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. It was preceded by seven national hearings, a National Research Forum on Family Issues, and by more than 300 state events in which more than 100,000 people participated. And it will be followed by a period of intensive advocacy that has been called for by both the President and by the Congress.

To chair the Conference, President Carter appointed Jim Guy Tucker, an attorney and former Congressman from Arkansas. And to guide its activities, the President named twenty men and twenty women of diverse racial, ethnic, professional, and religious backgrounds to the National Advisory Committee. In addition, John Carr, former director of education for the Campaign for Human Development, was named executive director of the Conference and its staff.

During the summer of 1979, the National Advisory Committee established goals and themes for the Conference (see page8) and devised a process of participation that distinguishes this White House Conference from all others. Instead of focusing activities on a single event, as previous Conferences had done, the Committee designed a program of national, state, and local activities intended to give all Americans an opportunity to speak out on what they think is right and wrong with the public and private policies that affect their lives.

To start the listening process, the Conference held national hearings across the country between September 1979 and January 1980; there were seven in all: Kansas City and Lindsborg, Kansas; Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee; Denver, Colorado; Hartford and Stamford, Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; Detroit, Michigan; and Seattle, Washington. While the hearings' planners anticipated modest attendance, more than 4,000 persons – – single-working parents, college students, senior citizens living in poverty, teen-age mothers, family care professionals, and elected officials – – turned out, often at personal sacrifice.

The thrust of their testimony was enormously positive. Americans from every walk of life, of all races, of every political and philosophical persuasion, testified their deep and abiding faith in the family as the primary source of strength in an increasingly complex society. But they voiced many deep concerns as well.

That most frequently cited was the sensitivity—or lack of it—of Federal, state, and local government towards families. Many criticized tax, welfare, health, and foster care policies that ignore or undermine families. Others accused government of ignoring racial or ethnic differences and the structural diversity of families, and noted the lack of accessibility to, and accountability for, government services.

The second most frequently stated concern was economic. Inflation and poverty—and just trying to make it on an average income—are creating terrible pressures on American families, stresses that too frequently result in divorce, alcoholism, or violence.

The third major concern was support for specific family structures that exist today—and the need for major insitutions, including government, to recognize this diversity in designing policies and programs.

Other concerns most frequently voiced at the national hearings included: the scarcity of affordable child care, particularly for working parents; the quality of health care; conflicts between work and family responsibilities; the need for family life education; the relationships between parents and their children; and the roles of community institutions in supporting families.

The Conference listening process next focused on state activities, which began in the fall of 1979 and concluded in April 1980. Virtually every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American territories convened hearings, forums, and conferences to identify leading family concerns and recommend changes in public and private policies. The resulting state reports were instrumental in preparing the Conference agenda.

President Carter launches the White House Conference on Families with members of the newly formed National Advisory Committee in July 1979.

The states were given another, crucially important responsibility: selection of more than 80 percent of the 2,000 delegates to the Conferences through a unique combination of peer selection and gubernatorial appointment. The vast majority of the delegates are not professionals serving families, but family members themselves, and, as the following figures show, closely reflect the nation's population:

- 25 percent represent racial minorities;
- Nearly 13 percent are single parents;
- 8 percent are over 60 years old;
- 10 percent are from low-income families; and
- More than 4 percent are handicapped.

The States' outstanding performance in reaching out to people and in selecting delegates is quite remarkable considering that no Federal funds were available to assist these efforts.

Two other pre-Conference events are noteworthy. On April 10–11, 1980, the Conference held a National Research Forum on Family Issues in Washington, D.C. Leading scholars and experts from the private and public sectors highlighted what is known about families and, more important, identified areas where further research is needed.

To complete the development of a broad base of facts and viewpoints to aid the delegates, a Gallup Poll on American Families was undertaken. The results of this first, national comprehensive poll on American families will be shared with the delegates at all three Conference sites.

National organizations and the business community have also been significantly involved in the White House Conference on Families.

More than 250 national organizations, ranging from the American Red Cross and the Future Homemakers of America, to the National Council on Churches and the National Council on Aging, urged their members to participate in Conference hearings and state activities. Many also submitted formal statements of their major family concerns for consideration by delegates to the National Conferences.

Conference Deputy Chair Donald Seibert, who is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the J.C. Penney Co., Inc., formed a Business Task Force in 1979 to encourage business support for the Conference. With representatives of more than two dozen major corporations (page 19), the Task Force contributed substantive issues input to the Conference and also raised funds for special Conference projects.

During the Conferences, delegates from 57 States and territories will review and discuss major issues and vote on Conference recommendations. The issues have been grouped into four major areas:

Families and Economic Well-Being

- Economic Pressures
- Families and Work
- Tax Policies
- Income Security for Families
- Status of Homemakers

Family Challenges and Responsibilities

- Preparation for Marriage and Family Life
- Specific Supports for Families
- Parents and Children
- Family Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Aging and Families

Families and Human Needs

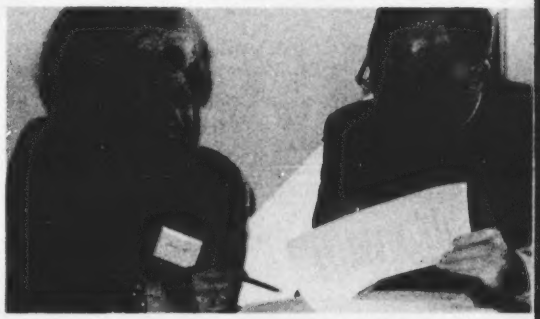
- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Child Care
- The Handicapped

Families and Major Institutions

- Government
- Television
- Community Institutions
- Law and the Judicial System.

At the conclusion of the three national Conferences, a 117-member National Task Force will meet to consolidate these recommendations into a single final report, which is to be completed by the end of August, 1980.

Following this there will be a six-month effort to turn the Conference's recommendations into action. Activities will include a report to the President, meetings with key Federal agency officials and Congressional leaders, and wide distribution of the Conference recommendations. The conference participants will also receive reports of all the results of the White House Conference.



Conference Goals

The National Advisory Committee on the White House Conference on Families has adopted the following goals for the Conference:

1. To initiate broad nationwide discussions of families in the United States.

2. To develop a process of listening to and involving families themselves, especially those families which have too often been left out of the formulation of policies that affect their lives.

3. To share what is known about families—their importance, diversity, strengths, problems, responses to a changing world, etc.—and to generate and share new knowledge about families.

4. To identify public policies, institutional actions and other factors which may harm or neglect family life, to determine differing impact on particular groups, and to recommend new policies designed to strengthen and support families.

5. To stimulate and encourage a wide variety of activities in neighborhoods, grass-roots organizations, communities, states, national organizations, media, and other public and private groups focused on supporting and strengthening families and individuals within families.

6. To examine the impact of economic forces (poverty, unemployment, inflation, etc.) on families, with special emphasis and involvement of poor families.

7. To encourage diverse groups of families to work together through local, state, and national networks and other institutions for policies which strengthen and support familiy life.

8. To generate interest in and action on Conference recommendations among individuals, families, and governmental and non-governmental bodies at every level. (These activities will include monitoring and evaluation efforts.)

Rosalynn Carter congratulates Harry Hollis as fellow National Advisory Committee members Georgia L. McMurray (L) and Barbara B. Smith look on. In photo at right, WHCF Chairperson Jim Guy Tucker (L) and John Carr, executive director, review progress at break during one of seven national hearings.

Conference Themes

The National Advisory Committee on the White House Conference on Families has adopted the following themes as starting points or principles for discussion of issues:

- *Family Strengths and Supports*

  Families are the oldest, most fundamental human institution, our most precious national resource. Families serve as a source of strength and support for their members and for our society.

- *Diversity of Families*

  American families are pluralistic in nature. Our discussion of issues will reflect an understanding of and respect for cultural, ethnic, and regional differences as well as differences in structure and lifestyle.

- *The Changing Realities of Family Life*

  American society is dynamic, constantly changing. The roles of families and individual family members are growing, adapting, and evolving in new and different ways to meet the challenges of our age.

- *The Impact of Public and Private Institutional Policies on Families*

  The policies of government and major private institutions have profound effects on families. Increased sensitivity to the needs of families is needed, as well as ongoing research and action to address the negative impacts of public and private institutional policies.

- *The Impact of Discrimination*

  Many families are exposed to various and diverse forms of discrimination. These can affect individual family members as well as the family unit as a whole.

- *Families with Special Needs*

  Certain families have special needs, and these needs often produce unique strengths. The needs of families with handicapped members, single-parent families, elderly families, and many other families with special needs will be addressed during the Conference.

Diverse Group of 40 Provides Conference Leadership

Jim Guy Tucker, chairperson of the White House Conference on Families, is a lawyer, husband, and father of three children.

A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Tucker, 36, is a partner in two law firms, Tucker & Stafford, Little Rock, Ark., and Lobel, Novins and Lamont, Washington, D.C. One of the U.S. Jaycee's Ten Outstanding Young Men in America in 1978, Tucker also represented Arkansas in the U.S. Congress from 1977 to 1979, where he was a member of the Ways and Means Committee and its Public Assistance and Unemployment and Social Security Subcommittees. From 1974 to 1977 he served as Attorney General of the State of Arkansas.

Tucker currently resides in Little Rock with his wife Betty and their three children, Anna Rebecca Tucker, Kelly Alworth, and Lance Alworth, Jr.

John L. Carr, executive director of the White House Conference on Families, was the education director of the Campaign for Human Development, an anti-poverty funding group, before his appointment as Executive Director of the White House Conference on Families.

From 1977 to 1979, Carr was executive director of the Full Employment Action Council, a coalition of 100 civil rights, labor, and women's groups, and before that served two years as coordinator for urban issues for the United States Catholic Conference. In addition to having taught at the college level in South Bend, Indiana, he is co-author of a book, *Housing and Mediating Structures*, which is now in press.

A native Minnesotan and graduate of St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Carr lives with his wife, Linda, and son, Michael, in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Deputy Chairpersons

Mario M. Cuomo, New York, New York, Lieutenant Governor of New York. An attorney, Mr. Cuomo was New York Secretary of State and Professor of Law at St. John's University.

Guadalupe Gibson, San Antonio, Texas, Associate Professor of the Worden School of Social Service, Our Lady of the Lake University; Director of the "La Chicana in Mental Health" project of the National Insitute of Mental Health.

Coretta Scott King, Atlanta, Georgia, President of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change. Mrs. King is Co-Chair of the Full Employment Action Council and a member of the Black Leadership Forum.

Maryann Mahaffey, Detroit, Michigan, President Pro Tem of the Detroit City Council and Professor in the School of Social Work in Wayne State University. She is a former President of the National Association of Social Workers.

Donald V. Seibert, New York, New York, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the J.C. Penney Company, Inc. Mr. Seibert is Chairman of the Task Force on Inflation of the Business Roundtable, chairs the Board of the National Retail Merchants Association and serves as a member of the Board of the United Way of America.

Families conference begins its search

input in Kansas City

Woman's Role to Child Caring

Opinions Flow at Conference on

KCK Host

U.S. Conference A Family Affair

Regional Hearing at Capitol

Conference To Examine Issues of Family Life

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES

More Than 300 Attend

Family Conference Is Success

Conference on Families

Conference On Families

THE family is the basic structure of any society and is both the foundation and moral support center for its members. It is the bedrock on which America was built.

Today, the signs are that the American family — as an institution — is in trouble. President Carter had this to say about that trouble not long ago:

"For couples who married in the early years of this century, one marriage in 10 ended in divorce; for couples who have married since World War II, one marriage in three ends in di-

In an effort to find out what can be done about the problems and where some answers may be, a White House Conference on Families is holding hearings around the nation, seeking to give families an opportunity to share concerns, ideas and problems of contemporary family life.

On Friday, there will be a conferen in Nashville, beginning at 9 a.m. Rooms 14 and 16 of the Legisla Plaza. There will be speakers discussion panels and the oppor for anyone to provide input

Leadership Group (contd.)

James A. Autry, Des Moines, Iowa, Editor-in-Chief or *Betters Homes and Gardens* magazine, Vice President of the Publishing Group of Meredith Publications, and Chairman of the Board of the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Charles D. Bannerman, Greenville, Mississippi, Chairman of Delta Foundation and Director of Mississippi Action for Community Education, a community organization working in depressed areas of the Mississippi Delta. He is Co-Chair of the National Rural Center and Rural Coalition.

Carolyn Shaw Bell, Dover, Massachusetts, chairs the Department of Economics at Wellesley College. She is the author of numberous books including *Coping in a Troubled Society* and *The Economics of the Ghetto.*

Jeanne Cahill, Atlanta, Georgia, President of Cahill Properties, Inc., former Executive Director and Chair of the Georgia Commission on the Status of Women. She works with the Center for Battered Women and Children in Atlanta.

Bettye Caldwell, Little Rock, Arkansas, Professor and Director of the Center for Early Development and Education at the University of Arkansas; author and researcher in early childhood development.

Ramona Carlin, Smolan, Kansas, is past President of the Central States Synodical Unit of the Lutheran Church of America, and has been active in the International Year of the Child, March of Dimes and the 4-H. She and her husband, Governor John Carlin, are dairy farmers.

Gloria Chavez, Los Angeles, California, President of the United Neighborhood Organization for the Federal of East Los Angeles, a low-income community organization working on food, housing and health issues.

Leon F. Cook, Minneapolis, Minnesota, President of American Indian Resource Services, recently served as an elected representative on the Red Lake Bank of Chippewa Indians Tribal Council.

Mary Cline Detrick, Elgin, Illinois, National staff member, Church of the Brethren. An ordained minister, she works in areas of youth ministry, familiy life, marriage enrichment and aging. She is the past President of the national Council of Churches Family Life and Human Sexuality Commission.

Manual Diaz, Jr, New York, New York, Associate Prefessor. Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Diaz is currently a board member of the Family Service Association and has served with the Puerto Rican Family Institute and New York Urban Coalition.

Ruby Duncan, Las Vegas, Nevada, founder and Executive Director of Operation Life, a social service and advocacy center for low-income families.

Karen Fenton, Missoula, Montana, is Director of the Human Resources Development Programs of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in rural Montana. Mrs. Fenton is a member of Montana's Committee for the Humanities.

Norman S. Fenton, Tucson, Arizona, Presiding Judge of the Pima County Conciliation Court. Judge Fenton received the 1978 Distinguished Service to Families award of the National Council on Family Relations and chaired the Arizona Governor's Task Force on Marriage and the Family.

Robert B. Hill, Washington, D.C. Director of Research for the National Urban League. He is the author of *The Strengths of Black Families*, and numerous other monographs and papers on the subject of Black families.

Robert L. Hill, Portland, Oregon, Chairman of the Metropolitan Youth Commission. Mr. Hill, 18, is the youngest panel member and a member of the Portland Public School Advisory Committee.

Charlotte G. Holstein, Syracuse, New York, President of the Loretto Geriatric Center. Past President of the New York State Association for Human Services and a member of the Board of Governor's of the American Jewish Committee. Ms. Holstein currently serves on the New York State Council on Youth.

Harry N. Hollis, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee, Director of Family and Special Moral Concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is a member of the National Council of Family Relations and the Association of Couples for Marriage Enrichment.

Jesse Jackson, Chicago, Illinois, national President of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), and founder of EXCEL, a national program designed to increase student achievement.

A. Sidney Johnson, III, Bethesda, Maryland, founder and Director of the Family Impact Seminar at George Washington University. Johnson served as staff director to then Senator Walter Mondale's Senate Subcomittee on Children and Youth.

Michael M. Karl, M.D., St. Louis, Missouri, a Professor of Clinical Medicine at Washington University. Dr. Karl is a leader in the Jewish Family Services movement.

Judith Koberna, Cleveland, Ohio, Vice-President of the Buckeye-Woodland Community Organization. She is a licensed practical nurse and has a deep interest in ethnicity and neighborhood concerns.

Olga M. Madar, Detroit, Michigan, President Emeritus of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and a retired UAW Vice President. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America and the Wayne Country Commission on Aging.

Harriette P. McAdoo, Columbia, Maryland, Professor in the School of Social Work of Howard Univesity. Professor McAdoo has served as a principal investigator of an HEW research grant on family factors related to occupational and educational mobility in Black middle income families.

Georgia L. McMurray, New York, Deputy General Driector for Program, Community Service Society of New York. She is a former Commissioner of the Agency for Child Development of the Human Resources Administration of the City of New York.

Patsy Mink, Waipahu, Hawaii, National President, Americans for Democratic Action. Ms. Mink, an attorney, was a member of Congress from 1965 to 1977 and currently is an instructor of law at the University of Hawaii.

Rashey B. Moten, Kansas City, Missouri, Executive Director of the Kansas City Catholic Charities. Mr. Moten is the former President of the national Conference of Catholic Charities.

Richard J. Neuhaus, New York, New York, Associate Pastor, Trinity Church. Pastor Neuhaus is the author of *To Empower people* and co-director of a national research project sponsored by the American Enterpirse Institute on *Mediating Structures and Public Policy.*

Robert M. Rice, Parkridge, New Jersey, Director of Policy Analysis and Development for the Family Service Association of America. The founding Chairperson of the Coalition for the White Hosue Conference on Families, Dr. Rice is author of *American Family Policy: Content and Context.*

Ildaura Murillo-Rhode, Seattle, Washington, Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Nursing of the University of Washington. A marriage and family therapist, she is the Chairperson-Elect of the National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health and Human Services Organization.

Hirsch L. Silverman, West Orange, New Jersey, Chairman of the Department of Education Administration at Seton Hall University. Professor Silverman is the Chairman of the national Alliance for Family Life and the author of fourteen books dealing with the areas of psychology, philosophy and education.

Eleanor C. Smeal, Pittsburgh, Pennsylavnia, President of the National Organization for Women, and an active participant in a variety of advocacy organizations.

Barbara B. Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah, General President of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She is active in the PTA and the Holladay Child Care Center.

J. Francis Stafford, Baltimore, Maryland, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Chairman of the Bishops Committee on Marriage and Family Life of the United States Catholic Conference.

J. C. Turner, Washington, D.C. President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL–CIO. Mr. Turner serves on the board of the National Urban League, National Consumers' League, and the YMCA.

Harold Yee, San Francisco, California. Director of Asia, Inc., a research institute for direct service agencies. Mr. Yee, an economist, serves on several San Francisco school advisory committees.

The People Who Made it Work

WHCF State Coordinators

Special recognition goes to the men and women at the state level who worked long and hard to make the WHCF possible. With the outstanding support of their governors, states selected delegates and developed issues without any federal financial support.

Alaska
Ms. Karen Corey

Arizona
Dr. Carol Kamin
Program Administrator for Children, Youth and Families

Arkansas
Mr. Don Crary

California
Mr. Alex Velasquez
Deputy Secretary of the Health & Welfare Agency for Children, Youth and Families

Colorado
Dr. Dorothy Martin
Ms. Donna Behrendt,
Deputy Coordinator

Connecticut
Ms. Laura Lee Simon

Delaware
Dr. Patricia Nelson

District of Columbia
Audrey Rowe
Mr. Karl Banks

Florida
Mr. Peter O'Donnell

Georgia
Mr. C. Randy Humphry

Hawaii
Ann Hoadley

Idaho
Mr. Ed Van Dusen

Illinois
Ann Rohlen
Mr. R.A. (Rod) St. Clair

Iowa
Ms. Shean Sherzan
Director of the Council for Children
Ms. Helen McDonald, Chairperson for Iowa Council for Children

Kansas
Ms. Nancy Hodges

Kentucky
Ms. Virginia Nester

Louisiana
Dr. Betty Jane Hodgkins

Maine
Mr. Michael Petit
Commissioner, Dept. of Human Services
Nancy McCallum, Staff Assistant

Maryland
Ms. Sally Michel
Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Office for Children and Youth
Martha Clark, Staff Assistant

Massachusetts
Mr. Mark Lawton
State Representative
Mr. John McParland, Staff Assistant

Michigan
Ms. Susan Brook
State Coordinator/WHCF

Minnesota
Mr. Dean Honetschlager

Mississippi
Ms. Edna Harbour
State Coordinator/WHCF

Missouri
Ms. Marie Williams
State Coordinator

Montana
Mr. John Frankino

Nebraska
Ms. Christine Hanus

Nevada
Mr. Ed Edmundson
Director, Dept. of Human Resources

New Hampshire
Mr. Mark Segar

New Jersey
Reverend Norman O 'Connor
Ms. Ann Okubo, Staff Assistant

New Mexico
Ms. Alice King

New York
Ms. Ilene Margolin
Executive Director of the Council on
Children and Families
Ms. Evelyn Roth
Operations Director

North Carolina
Dr. Charles Petty
Director, Office of Citizen Participation
Mr. Austin Connors, Staff Assistant

North Dakota
Mr. Milan Christianson
Associate Professor, Family Life Specialist

Ohio
Mrs. Mary Turney

Oklahoma
Ms. Cindy Worley
Administrative Assistant
for Human Resources

Oregon
Ms. Alice Kay Simpson

Pennsylvania
Ms. Helen O'Bannon
Secretary
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Public Welfare
Ms. Marian Bass, Staff Assistant

Puerto Rico
Dr. Jenaro Collazo
Mrs. Edith F. Valentine
Deputy Coordinator

Rhode Island
Mr. John Mc. Manus
Co-Coordinator/WHCF
Mr. John Affleck
Co-Coordinator /WHCF
Ms. Kathy Spangler, Staff Assistant

South Carolina
Ms. Emily Wiggins

South Dakota
Ms. Arlinda McCumber

Tennessee
Mr. Charles Gentry
Executive Director of Children
on Family Services

Texas
George Willeford, Jr., M.D.
Mr. Jonathan Hole

Utah
Mrs. Ellen Furgis
Dr. Richard Lindsay

Vermont
Dr. Armin Grams
State Coordinator/WHCF
Eric Nichols
Deputy Coordinator

Virginia
Dr. Jessica Cohen

Washington
Ms. Leila K. Todorovich
Mr. Dick Westgard, Assistant Coordinator

West Virginia
Mr. Manuel Viola
Co-Coordinator/WHCF
Ms. Marjorie Hale
Co-Coordinator/WHCF

Wisconsin
Mr. Charles Uphoff

Wyoming
Dr. Everett Lantz

American Samoa
High Chief Unuota S. Liufai

Guam
Dr. Arthur Jackson
Director, Dept. of Youth Affairs

Northern Marianas
Mr. Ted Oxborrow

Trust Territories of the Pacific
Mr. Resio S. Moses

Virgin Islands
The Honorable Gwendolyn C. Blake

WHCF Staff

John L. Carr
Anthony Anastasi
Debra Anderson
Stephanie Braime
Mary Cole
Bonnie Cowan
Diana Crank
Ron Daly
Harvey Dzodin
Fran Eizenstat
Mildred Friedli
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Pamela Zinn

A Year of Action

April 1979–

President Carter names Jim Guy Tucker WHCF chairperson.

June 1979–

Forty member WHCF national Advisory Committee appointed by the President to "find out what makes a family strong".

July 1979–

At its first meeting NAC calls for three White House Conferences around nation in summer of 1980. Also develops Conference "listening" process—seven national hearings around country, state activities, national organizations involvement—and establishes goals and themes.

September 1979–

NAC adopts guidelines for state activities whereby states would hold meetings to identify their ten most important topics and recommendations, and elect delegates to attend the three WHCF's in summer of 1980.

September 28 & 29 1979–

First WHCF national hearings held in Kansas City and Lindsborg, Kansas. Attendance topped 450 people, who heard testimony on issues ranging from preparation for marriage to need for more family physicians.

October 1979–

National Hearings held in Tennessee and Colorado. Lead topics in Tennessee were economy, morality, and poverty, while Colorado discussions centered on farmers, veterans, and relocation.

November 1979–

WHCF sponsors a "Celebration of Families" at the Smithsonian Museum in Wash, D.C., prior to opening of D.C. hearings. Meanwhile, state activities began with South Dakota and Virginia holding November conferences.

December 1979–

National hearings were held in Wash, D.C., and Detroit, Mich, and state activities intensified with most states holding or planning regional and state meetings.

January 1980–

Final National hearings held in Seattle, Washington. The NAC's third meeting heard reports on state activities, decided on Conference format and approved criteria for selecting at-large delegates and observers. Meanwhile, state activities continued with New York, Minnesota, and Ohio holding regional and state-wide family meetings to discuss issues and elect delegates.

February 1980–

Alaska, Arizona, Wash, D.C. Iowa, Kentucky, and other states held local and statewide family meetings to discuss issues and elect delegates.

March 1980–

Early March marked the near conclusion of state activites. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia had named more than 300 delegates and registered over 25,000 persons involved in state activities at that time.

April 1980–

More than 400 family scholars, researchers, and citizens from diverse backgrounds met in Wash., D.C., at the WHCF's National Reseach Forum on Family Issues to examine what is known about families in preparation for the 3 WHCF's. Purpose of the forum was to create a factual framework for delegates. Also, the NAC adopted the format and agenda of the 3 WHCF's at its fourth meeting. Meanwhile, state activities were completed with more than 100,000 people participating.

May 1980–

Preparation and planning for the 3 summer WHCF's was extensive. More than 1100 state delegates were selected; 35 states submitted issue reports; 55 of 57 jurisdictions were planning to send formal delegations to the WHCF's. An analysis of the national hearings showed that the impact of government and the stress of economic pressure topped the list of concerns raised by more than 2,000 people who testified.

June 1980–

WHCF in Baltimore–June 5-7.
WHCF in Minneapolis–June 19-21.

July 1980–

WHCF in Los Angeles–10-12

August 1980–

Results of the 3 WHCF's pulled together into one national product by a National Task Force. This 117–member Task Force includes member of NAC, one representative from each state, and 20 presidential appointees.

September 1980–

Following completion of the final report and delivery to the President, the Conference staff will begin a six–month implementation period attempting to turn concepts into action to strengthen families.

WCHF "Celebration of Families" at the Smithsonian Institution on the eve of Washington, D.C. national hearings in November brought entertainers and many young guests together, including President Carter's daughter, Amy.

WHCF Becomes Government-Wide Effort

To provide government-wide support for WHCF, President Carter formed an Inter-Agency Task Force in the fall of 1979.

The President urged all federal agencies to assist the WHCF in a range of areas, including:

"Identifying and cataloging programs, policies and programs; publishing studies, reports and other informational materials relating to families; providing detailees, logistical assistance, meeting facilities, and other resources for Conference activities; earmarking discretionary funds for projects which support the goals of the White House Conference on Families; and informing employees and constituent groups about Conference activities."

More than 50 Federal departments and agencies attended the first Task Force meeting in November, 1979. Their help has been crucial to Conference progress. Support has ranged from providing personnel on a detail basis to publishing especially prepared reference material.

The White House Conference on Families extends its gratitude and appreciation to the following Agencies and Departments:

The Department of Agriculture

The Department of Commerce

The Department of Defense

The Department of Health and Human Services (formerly DHEW)

The Community Service Administration

The Housing and Urban Development Agency

The Office of Personnel Management

The Department of Interior

The White House Drug Office

The National Institute of Mental Health (HHS)

The Bureau of the Census (Commerce)

The Selective Service Administration

The National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Humanities

The Department of Justice

Families and the Arts

Throughout history, the arts have celebrated families. They have consistently portrayed and reflected the diversity of families, as well as their strengths and problems. These artistic statements have added dimension to our understanding of the families and have served as a bond within the family unit.

It was because of these factors that a cultural event was planned for each White House Conference. It is hoped that the bringing together of Conference delegates to share an artistic experience will highlight the role played by the arts within the lives of families. This cultural dimension, which will draw upon the local talent of each Conference city, will demonstrate how the arts reflect the diversity and pluralism of our families and how family relationships are strengthened through participation.

Companies, Groups Support WHCF

The Private sector has provided significant support for the White House Conference on Families. While there may be several omissions due to commitments made in June, the WHCF extends its sincere thanks to the following companies and groups:

AFG Industries
Allegheny Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
The American Research Corporation
Burger King Corporation
Control Data Corporation
Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States
Food Marketing Institute
General Mills, Inc.
General Motors Corporation
George Gund Foundation
William T. Grant Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Levi Strauss Foundation
Paul Masson Vineyards
MCA
Meredith Foundation
National Milk Producer Federation
National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities
J.C. Penney Compnay, Inc.
Safeway Stores, Inc.
Sun Company
United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association
van Ameringen Foundation, Inc.

Two-day Research Forum session saw presenters and panel members exchanging information on a wide range of family-related issues.

Research Forum Key Event in Conference Process

Dr. James Dobson, associate clinical professor of pediatrics, School of medicine, University of Southern California.

The WHCF National Research Forum on Family Issues marked a significant step in the Conference process.

On April 10 and 11, more than 400 people gathered in Washington, D.C. to share current information and research on American families. The forum brought together some of the country's most prominent scholars and researchers to provide the group with a comprehensive examination of the leading issues affecting families today.

Forum participants presented background papers summarizing research in a range of areas reflecting major WHCF themes, including family strengths and supports, diversity of families, discrimination, and impact of public and private institutional policies on families. The Research Forum played a key role in establishing a factual base for the Conference, and WHCF is grateful to all those who participated.

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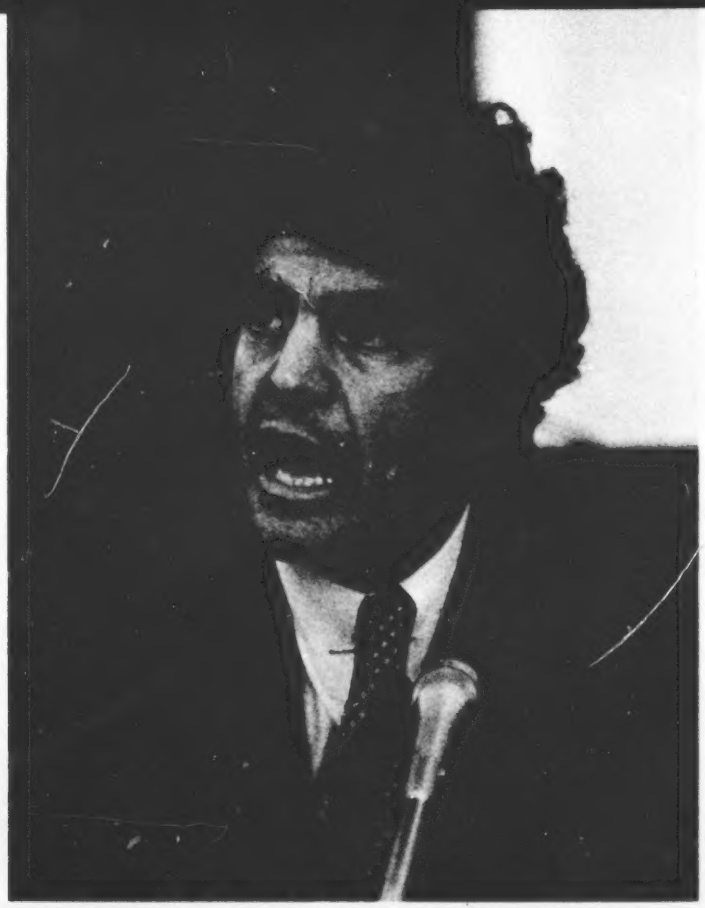
A. Sidney Johnson, III, member of the National Advisory Committee and director, Family Impact Seminar, George Washington University, moderated the panel on the impact of public and private institutional policies on families.

Jane Howard, author of "Families".

Dr. Juan Ramos, director, Division of Special mental Health Programs, National Institute of Mental Health, DHHS, presents his findings on racial and ethnic diversity of families.



Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, president, Phoenix House Foundation, discusses substance abuse.

Dr. Tamara Hareven, professor of hisotry, Clark University, and research associate, Center for Population Studies, Harvard University, shares her historical perspective on families.

The Research Forum was made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Velma La Point, senior staff fellow, Laboratory of Developmental Psychology, National Institute of Mental Health, presented a paper on the impact of incarceration on families.

Dr. Harriette Mc Adoo(l), WHCF National Advisory Committee member Dr. Marvin Sussman (c), UNIDEL professor of human behavior, University of Delaware; Dr. Carol Stack (r), director, Center for Study of Family and State, Duke University. Panel focused on "Positive Family Functioning".